

2021 Final Report: *Hoffmann, M.; Samtani, J.; McWhirt, A. et al.*

Developing a southern regional strawberry plasticulture production guide

A meeting was conducted in February 2021 to select a revision team that will revise the current Southeast regional strawberry plasticulture guide ([Poling et al. 2005](#)). The revision team came to the conclusion that the current guide is not up-to-date and is lacking several important topics. In a meeting in April 2021, it was decided to write an entirely new document rather than to update the current document. Following authors were contacted in April/May 2021 and have agreed to contribute to the new document: Mark Hoffmann (NC State University), Jayesh Samtani (Virginia Tech), Amanda McWhirt (University of Arkansas), Guido Schnabel (Clemson University), Phillip Brennan (University of Georgia), Bill Cline (NC State University), Hannah Burrack (NC State University), Katie Jennings (NC State University), Daniel Tregeagle (NC State University), Gina Fernandez (NC State University), Chip Simmons (NC State University), David Lockwood (University of Tennessee), Michael Mengak (University of Georgia), Hannah Dankbar (NC State University), Roy Flanagan (Virginia Tech), Erin Eure (NC Cooperative Extensions), Sanjun Gu (North Carolina A&T University), Kathryn Holmes (NC Cooperative Extension) (Table 1).

Table 1: Structure and Authors of the new southern regional strawberry plasticulture guide:

1. Decision tree (**Hoffmann**)
2. Short overview of Strawberry biology (**Hoffmann**)
3. Introduction into plasticulture (**McWhirt**)
4. Main things to consider and planting cycle (including diseases/pests/weeds) (**Brennan, Cline, Jennings, Burrack, Hoffmann**)
5. Climate Change and Strawberry Production (**Hoffmann**)
6. U-Pick Operations (**Flanagan, Hoffmann, Eure**)
7. Food Safety (**Simmons**)
8. Markets (**Eure, Tregeagle, Dankbar**)
9. Budget (**Tregeagle**)

10. Planting Material, cultivars (**Mc Whirt, Fernandez**)
11. Field Preparation and Plastic Laying (**Samtani**)
12. Fumigation (**Hoffmann**, Holmes)
13. IPM, Sprayer Calibration, and Animal Control (**Lockwood, Mangak**)
14. Planting and after-planting care (**McWhirt**)
15. Cold and frost protection (**Samtani, Lockwood**)
16. Pre-Bloom and Harvest Preparation (**Hoffmann**)
17. Things to consider during harvest (**McWhirt, Perkins**)
18. Water and Fertility Management (fertigation) (**Samtani**)
19. Pesticide Resistance Management (**Schnabel, Burrack, Jennings**)
20. Crop termination /follow up crop? (**Samtani**)
21. Cover Crops and Crop Rotation (**McWhirt**)
22. Use of tunnel systems (**Gu**)
23. Literature (**Hoffmann**)
24. Resources (**Hoffmann, Samtani, McWhirt**)
25. Appendices (**Hoffmann**)

The main editors of the new production guide are: Mark Hoffmann, Jayesh Samtani and Amanda McWhirt. Co-editors are: Rebecca Melanson (University of Mississippi) and Edgar Vinson (Auburn University).

In the wake of a new, much larger task than initially anticipated, following time-line was agreed upon.

- Dec. 15, 2021: Deadline for all chapters to be submitted
- Dec. 25, 2021: First assembled version send out to editors and co-editors.
- Jan 30, 2022: Edits will be send back to author teams
- Feb 28, 2022: Second draft will be send to grower editorial board and editors/co-editors
- March 31, 2022: Edits are either directly attended to be send back to authors
- April 30, 2022: Final Version is assembled and will be submitted for proof reading to NCSU Extension.
- May 31, 2022: Final Version is ready to be submitted!

At the time of this report (12/2/2021), about 40% of the new production guide is assembled